

Introduced by Senator Lowenthal

February 24, 2012

An act to add and repeal Section 84215.5 of the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1553, as introduced, Lowenthal. Political Reform Act of 1974: campaign statements: electronic filing.

(1) The Political Reform act of 1974 requires elected officers, candidates for elective office, and campaign committees to file campaign statements reporting contributions and expenditures for specified reporting periods. Under the act, city elected officers, candidates for city office, their controlled committees, committees formed or existing primarily to support or oppose candidates or local measures to be voted upon in one city, and city general purpose committees are required to file campaign statements with the clerk of the city.

This bill would create a pilot program for the 2013 through 2014 reporting periods that authorizes the City of Long Beach to permit any person who files a campaign statement with the city clerk to file electronically. In addition, the bill would require the City of Long Beach, if it chooses to participate in the pilot program, to prepare a report evaluating the program under specified criteria, and would further require the Legislative Analyst's Office to prepare a report evaluating the program.

(2) This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for a pilot program in the City of Long Beach.

(3) The Political Reform Act of 1974, an initiative measure, provides that the Legislature may amend the act to further the act's purposes

upon a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of each house and compliance with specified procedural requirements.

This bill would declare that it furthers the purposes of the act.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 84215.5 is added to the Government
2 Code, to read:

3 84215.5. (a) (1) The City of Long Beach may permit any
4 person who files a campaign statement with the city clerk pursuant
5 to subdivision (d) of Section 84215 to file electronically.

6 (2) If the City of Long Beach authorizes electronic filing
7 pursuant to subdivision (a), the city clerk shall use a form, and
8 follow procedures, prescribed by the Commission.

9 (b) If the City of Long Beach chooses to participate, the pilot
10 program created pursuant to this section shall commence on or
11 after January 1, 2013, and shall be completed by January 31, 2015.
12 The pilot program shall include all reporting periods commencing
13 January 1, 2013, and ending December 31, 2014.

14 (c) (1) If the City of Long Beach chooses to participate in the
15 pilot program created pursuant to this section, the city shall submit
16 to the Commission, by July 1, 2015, a report on the pilot program
17 that shall include all of the following:

18 (A) A listing and estimate of associated operational efficiencies
19 and related savings.

20 (B) A listing and estimate of associated costs from implementing
21 and operating the pilot program.

22 (C) A listing of safety, security, or privacy issues encountered
23 and an explanation of the manner in which those issues were
24 addressed.

25 (D) Available information relating to feedback from electronic
26 filing participants.

27 (E) Any other relevant information on the implementation of
28 the pilot program.

29 (2) The Commission shall transmit the report received pursuant
30 to paragraph (1), as well as any comments on the report, to the
31 Legislative Analyst's Office by August 15, 2015. The Legislative

Analyst's Office shall provide a report to the Legislature evaluating the pilot program by February 1, 2016.

(3) The Commission, in consultation with the Legislative Analyst's Office, may develop additional criteria for the report to be submitted by the City of Long Beach pursuant to paragraph (1).

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2017, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2017, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that a special law is necessary and that a general law cannot be made applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution because of the need to create a pilot program in the City of Long Beach to test the benefits of electronic filing of campaign statements in order to develop a practical model that will assist other local agencies in implementing their own electronic filing procedures in the future.

SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that this bill furthers the purposes of the Political Reform Act of 1974 within the meaning of subdivision (a) of Section 81012 of the Government Code.